

# Record

JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

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By William H. Perkins Jr.  
Editor

Hugh Austin, a lifelong member of First Church, Grenada, recalls seeing needy disaster victims pouring into town in search of help. It may have been after a hurricane evacuation of the entire Mississippi Gulf Coast, or it may have been after a more localized disaster — but the people came.

Many Mississippians likely are unaware that when a full-scale evacuation or major disaster occurs somewhere in the state, the flow of people northward on Interstate 55 searching for accommodations and seeking assistance for other needs can back up well into the state of Tennessee.

"We know from past experience that housing evaporates. Local motels fill up fast during a disaster, and then work crews move in after a disaster for an extended period of time. People just didn't have anywhere to turn," the career forester said.

Austin and the other members of First Church, Grenada, decided to take action, and the idea of a disaster relief ministry really took hold during a severe winter storm several years ago, according to Tim Williams, pastor of First Church, Grenada.

The area was hit particularly hard, with ice-laden tree limbs snapping power lines and also falling across vital transportation arteries to medical facilities and businesses.

"There was an informal effort to help out by cutting limbs, locating portable generators, and seeing that needs were met. We saw it as a viable way to plug into the community; to see people's needs met," Williams said.

A strategic planning committee was formed and came up with the concept of an emergency response ministry to answer those needs in an organized manner, he recalled.

The idea was well-received by church members, Austin and Williams said.

"We wanted to consolidate our emergency response effort. About 15 people showed up for the first committee meeting," said Austin, who chairs the strategic planning committee.

In addition, Grenada Lake Hospital in Grenada has agreed to supply linens and other laundry items when the church is activated as a shelter.

The American Red Cross sent representatives to train volunteers in shelter management and other aspects of emergency

Austin also said Grenada County Civil Defense Director George Frazier has begun asking other churches in the county if they would like to get involved in the project.

"We would like to see it expand to other churches in the area," Austin said.

The planning and certification the church underwent led the committee to take action in other areas of emergency preparedness as well, Austin pointed out.

"We began checking all the church's fire extinguishers — not just the ones in the areas to be used as emergency shelter. We found some were inoperative and some had no pressure at all.

"We installed smoke alarms throughout the church, and we have taken all three shifts of the Grenada Fire Department on tours of our buildings so they'll be familiar with the layout if they ever have to fight a fire in here.

"We've also started evacuation planning. For

example, there will be a new system to get the children out of the nursery as quickly as possible in the event of an emergency," Austin said.

For more information on how the church organized its emergency response ministry, contact Williams at 741 S. Line Street, Grenada, MS 38901. Telephone: (662) 226-3661.

The Mississippi Baptist Convention is known across the Southern Baptist Convention for its disaster relief ministry. For information on that ministry, contact the Men's Ministry Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board at P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Telephone: (601) 292-2335 or toll-free outside Jackson (800) 748-1651, ext. 335. E-mail: cwright@mbcb.org.



PREPARED TO HELP — Hugh Austin (right), a member of First Church, Grenada, and Tim Williams (center), pastor of First Church, Grenada, inspect emergency cots with Jim Legge, manager of the Wal-Mart Supercenter in Grenada. The store provided the cots at cost to assist the church in establishing a new emergency response ministry. (Photo by William H.

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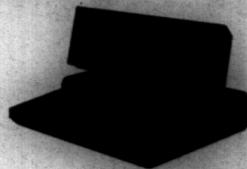
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## EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK



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**I**t happens every year at about this time, a couple of weeks after the adjournment of the Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting. Readers of The Baptist Record call or write to inquire why letters to the editor dealing with the convention seem to be so one-sided.

Then comes the inevitable question: "Are you screening letters that don't agree with your point of view?" The answer is no, but the question prompts the perennial explanation of how The Baptist Record goes about publishing letters to the editor — one of the most heavily-read features of any newspaper, secular or religious.

We believe the letters to the editor section of the newspaper is an ideas forum for Mississippi Baptists and others to express themselves on issues of importance to them.

The staff of The Baptist Record does not screen letters to the editor "for" or "against" any particular viewpoint. We also don't sequentially publish one letter "for" and one letter "against"; we print letters as close as possible to the order in which they are received.

If that sometimes seems lopsided "for" or "against" a particular issue, it's only because that's the way the letters come in to the newspaper office.

Your letter has a good chance of being printed in The Baptist Record, as long as the letter fits the guidelines published whenever letters to the editor appear in the newspaper.

Those guidelines include:

- Unsigned copies will not be published. No multi-copy or form letters will be used.
- Each correspondent must include the name of the cooperating Mississippi Baptist church where the correspondent is a member. While the letters to the editor section is open to anyone who wishes to write, Mississippi Baptists' letters will receive priority when space is limited.

## Dear editor...

• Letters must contain no more than 250 words, and all correspondence is subject to editing even if it is under 250 words.

• Correspondents should refrain from personal attacks. The opinions expressed in letters to the editor do not necessarily reflect the views of the staff of The Baptist Record or the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.

• No more than one letter from any individual will be printed in a three-month period. That frees up space for other letter writers and prevents back-and-forth, "you said/he said" contests. Such letter-writing campaigns can get mighty tedious for readers.

• When in the judgment of the editor a given issue has received sufficient attention, correspondence dealing with that issue will no longer be published and a notice will be printed to that effect. There really is such a thing as "beating a dead horse" when it comes to letters to the editor.

There are of course a few unwritten, common-sense rules. For example, no letter to the editor will appear in The Baptist Record that is heretical on its face or obviously contrary to Baptist doctrine.

Perfect grammar and a spell-checking computer are not required, but the newspaper's staff does reserve the right to correct grammatical miscues and resolve confusing sentence structure.

You can increase the chances your letter to the editor will appear in The Baptist

"NOW THERE IS A REAL INDEPENDENT BAPTIST CHURCH!"



Record by writing concisely and getting to the point as quickly as possible.

If you keep your letter at 250 words or less and make your point as clearly and concisely as possible, you won't have to worry about your main message getting edited out of your letter.

Lastly, you should consider someone else's viewpoint as expressed in a letter to the editor to be as valid as your own viewpoint. It doesn't advance the cause of Christ to belittle someone's heartfelt opinion.

Advancing the cause of Christ is the only reason The Baptist Record exists, and the letters to the editor section must reflect that reality while also allowing readers to express themselves.

Will what you are about to write have the ultimate effect of helping to bring Mississippi and the world to Jesus? The only way to know for sure is to go to the Lord in prayer before a single word is written.

That, brothers and sisters, is the most important guideline of all.

local churches. Baptists believe that God calls whom he will to the ministry, and the local congregation recognizes the gift of God's Call and ordains that person to the ministry.

God is not limited on whom he may call. Thus, the congregation may ordain a male or a female, according to the scriptural interpretation and policies of the local church.

Traditionally, most Baptist churches have limited ordination to men only, but many churches have ordained both men and women as pastors or deacons.

Messengers to an annual meeting of the convention have authority to approve the majority opinion of those present. However, compliance by other Baptist entities is not compulsory but voluntary, as demonstrated by the previous convention resolution to boycott Disney World.

The bottom line is the matter of authority. Because local churches are the only Baptist bodies having pastors, only local churches can "ban" women pastors.

Moore is a retired Mississippi pastor and director of missions with 60 years of denominational leadership service.

## GUEST OPINION:

### *A matter of authority*

By W. Levon Moore, member  
First Church, Kosciusko

no one of these has authority over another.

• **Authority.** The Southern Baptist Convention Constitution in article IV states, "While independent and sovereign in its own sphere, the convention does not and never will attempt to exercise any authority over any other Baptist body, whether church, auxiliary organization, association, or convention."

Therefore, no action may be taken, and no resolution may be adopted by the convention, which binds any individual, local church, association, or state convention. The Southern Baptist Convention, state convention, or an association may refuse to seat messengers from a non-cooperating church, but none of these can take an action which is binding upon a local church.

The work of the convention

is supported by voluntary contributions from the churches through what is called the Cooperative Program. No church is required to contribute, except to give \$250 per year in order to meet requirements for sending messengers to the annual meeting of the convention.

• **Implications.** The recent action of the Southern Baptist Convention concerning the matter of women pastors is not binding upon any individual or church. This is true for two basic reasons: (1) The constitution of the convention will not allow the action to be binding, and (2) The Southern Baptist Convention does not have any pastors.

The convention does not ordain or elect a single pastor. These are responsibilities of

# Baptists provide food for Uganda refugees

KATAKWI, Uganda (BP) — It is a world few Westerners can imagine. Incidents of rape, pillage, and murder at the hands of a warring tribal group known as the Kiramajong (keer-ah-mah-jong) are commonplace these days in four provinces of northern Uganda.

Upwards of 200,000 Iteso (Ee-tess-so) people have fled their homes to escape the recent outbreak of violence. Some people have lost their cattle, some their possessions, and others their loved ones. Where the raiders used to carry spears, they are now armed with AK-47 assault rifles. Many villagers fled to makeshift refugee camps established by the Ugandan government.

Along the 30-mile dirt road to Katakwi (kah-tah-kwee), capital of the district by the same name, trucks transport cattle to market. Villagers sell their livestock to cattle dealers for a fraction of their worth rather than risk having them stolen at the hands of the Kiramajong.

Thousands of displaced people, mostly women and children, are living in squalor. Sleeping on mats in mud huts, many gather clover to prepare as the only food for their family and draw drinking water from marshes.

As a group of Southern Baptists assessing the needs of the people walked through the refugee camp, one elderly woman clasped her hands, bowing in Ugandan style, and began to plead for food. Clutching her stomach, she said in her native tongue she had been hungry for a long time.

## House passes FCC measure

WASHINGTON (BP) — A bill to prohibit the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) from restricting religious speech on noncommercial educational channels has passed the House of Representatives by a 264-159 vote. Mississippi Congressman Chip Pickering, sponsor of the Noncommercial Broadcasting Freedom of Expression Act, called the HR 4201 vote a victory for religious freedom. The House bill, which passed largely along party lines, will require the FCC to hold public hearings before changing the licensing rules for noncommercial religious broadcasters, the Internet news site CNSNews.com noted. Both Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchinson of Texas and Sen. Sam Brownback of Kansas have introduced similar bills in the Senate, though a vote has not been scheduled on either. Brandt Gustavson, president of the National Religious Broadcasters (NRB), said after the vote, "[W]e're one step closer to being sure that the government, in this case the FCC, will not be permitted to chip away at our basic liberty of religious expression." NRB is a 1,250-member association of Christian broadcasters. One opponent of the bill, Congressman John Dingell of Michigan, derided the measure as "a raid on the educational broadcasting system, the educational broadcasting networks, and upon public broadcasting. I would point out that if this legislation is passed you are going to find any imaginable form of religious crank or crackpot to come forward to claim priority in terms of religious broadcasting licenses."



YOUNG REFUGEE — A young Iteso girl pulls the leaves from clover to be cooked for her family. She is living in a refugee hut built of reeds with 200 other people. They have no blankets and very little food. Over 200,000 people have recently been displaced by the warring tribe known as the Kiramajong in Northern Uganda. (BP photo)

She begged for a morsel to eat.

Another middle-aged man told how the Kiramajong raided his farm night after night, stealing everything of value. With a wife and 10 children, he said fleeing his home was his only option. "Now," he sighed, "we have nothing left and no place to go."

The lack of international media coverage of this tragedy means the area has received little assistance. The Ugandan government distributed some corn to the people but no other help arrived. The arrival of a Southern Baptist mission team changed all that.

On May 6, Southern Baptists delivered 13 tons of corn meal and beans to six different locations where displaced people

were anxiously waiting. Several Ugandan Baptist seminary students among those displaced from their homes aided in the distribution of food as they told of Christ's love and concern for the suffering Ugandans. National pastors were on hand to preach the good news of Jesus Christ and many gave their hearts to him as a result of the Southern Baptist-directed efforts.

"At a crisis time like this, people realize that there is little they can count on in this world. At such a time, they become very open to Jesus Christ," said Jack Frost, a Southern Baptist missionary serving in the area. To avoid so-called counterfeit decisions prompted only out of gratefulness for the food, pastors made it abundantly clear that

the food was for everyone — whether they responded to the Gospel message or not.

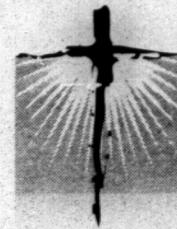
"We want to share a little hope with everyone, and the

ultimate hope with any who will receive," Frost continued. At one location, 43 people prayed to receive Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior.

As evidence of their appreciation for the kindness of Southern Baptists, two older Ugandan ladies fell on their knees at the feet of volunteers to convey their thanks for the food they had received.

The food was provided through the Southern Baptist World Hunger Fund. This food costs about 12 cents per meal. The Southern Baptist World Hunger Fund uses 100% of all donations for hunger, with nothing taken out for administration or promotion.

For more information on the ministry of the Southern Baptist World Hunger Fund, contact the Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission at 1-888-375-2461; 901 Commerce, Suite 550, Nashville, TN 37203; or e-mail [worldhunger@erlc.com](mailto:worldhunger@erlc.com).



MISSISSIPPI  
BAPTISTS

THE  
SECOND  
FRONT PAGE

THE BAPTIST  
*Record*

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FOOD ASSISTANCE — A crowd of displaced Iteso people line up to receive a ration of corn meal and beans as missionary Jack Frost (background, left) looks on. The food was provided through gifts to the Southern Baptist World Hunger Fund. (BP photo)

Looking back

10 years ago

Mississippi College in Clinton is among 19 Baptist-affiliated schools recognized by the John Templeton Foundation for building moral and spiritual character and for teaching "traditional Western political and economic philosophies," generally known as free enterprise.

20 years ago

Mississippi is the only state in the Southern Baptist Convention to report gains over the previous year in every area covered by the Uniform Church Letter, including total membership, baptism, Sunday School enrollment, VBS, Church Training, WMU, and Brotherhood.

50 years ago

Neshoba Association, Philadelphia, sponsors the first of several Negro Vacation Bible Schools planned for the summer in various locations around the county. A final enrollment of 331 students makes it the largest VBS in the history of Neshoba County Baptist work.

# BSUers survive Challenge Country course

ELLISVILLE, Miss. (Special) — Just as quickly as the plane was airborne, it plummeted into the ocean. In the darkness, an escape hatch was found and students and staff from the Gulf Coast Community College Baptist Student Union (BSU) hurried through the blackness.

Depending on the instructions of the ones ahead of them to lead them out of the rapidly sinking plane, one by one they passed through a hole in the fuselage that was barely above the shark-infested waters. They inched their way out to fresh air, only to face another challenge — getting each person safely into the lifeboat and away from the pull of the sinking plane and the peril of the frigid sea.

The adventure continues. As soon as everyone is safely on dry land, blindfolded students have to be instructed through a live mine field, inching their way past dangers that could maim or kill in an instant.

Others are challenged to

safely get their group, some of whom suffer from serious injuries, off a mountain peak under the threat of an avalanche.

These are just some of the adventures that are part of an exciting day at Challenge Country in Ellisville. The "plane crash" was actually blindfolded students assisting one another through a huge truck tire suspended six feet in the air, followed by swinging on a rope to another truck tire which represented "escape hatch" with other students not far behind.



LEAD THE WAY — Blindfolded Gulf Coast BSU students work together to survive a "plane crash" in Ellisville at Challenge Country. Adam Cheek, Terry Bang, and John Steffens are the first to reach the which represented "escape hatch" with other students not far behind. (BR Special Photo)



CHALLENGERS — Gulf Coast Community College BSU students and staff who gathered for a day of leadership training at Challenge Country included (back row, from left) Chris Towles, Terry Bang, Maria Titus, John Steffens, Adam Cheek, James Wadsworth, Josh Price, Phuong To, Cindy Blackwell, Jeannette Everett, Jesse Hearndon, Tim Thomas, (front row, from left) Amy Leitz, Jackie Ball, James Reardon, Jennifer Sanford, Cindy Hawkins, and Katherine Rogers. (BR Special Photo)

## MISUNDERSTANDING

During the first days of June a shocking incident took place at an airport in Michigan. As a corporate jet was being boarded it was thought to be in the process of being hijacked. The tower was communicating with the pilot and the air traffic controller overheard someone in the background on the jet say, "Hijack." The tower radioed the police and the FBI. In short order scores of police surrounded the plane and SWAT teams rushed into place. The law enforcement agents were determined to keep the plane from being hijacked and were intent on rescuing the passengers.

It wasn't until over an hour later that the truth began to emerge. It seems that as the co-pilot was boarding the plane a passenger recognized him and knowing him personally, the passenger simply spoke to him saying, "Hi, Jack." Of course that had nothing to do with what was going on in the plane or with the communication the pilot was having with the tower.



## Directions

**Jim Futral**, executive director-treasurer  
Mississippi Baptist Convention Board

Neither the pilot, nor the co-pilot, nor any of the passengers had any idea that the thought was spreading outside the plane that they were being hijacked.

The whole event turned into a good exercise of what to do when there is a hijack crisis. No one was hurt or harmed and most everyone was able to chuckle when the incident came to an end. It was another demonstration of what can happen when people misunderstand what is being said, or overheard, or inferred.

What we think we are communicating and what we are actually conveying may be worlds apart. You may have heard about the little child who

was riding along in the car with his dad and said, "Let's sing some church songs." The dad asked, "What song do you want to sing?" The little boy replied, "Let's sing the 'Sock Me and Bop Me' song." The dad, who was puzzled, said, "I don't believe I've ever heard the 'Sock Me and Bop Me' song!" The little boy said, "Oh, Dad, we sing it in church all the time!" Trying to help each other out, they finally came to the conclusion that he was wanting to sing, "He sought me and bought me with his redeeming love." Most of us know it as "Victory in Jesus," but what a little child hears, as others sing, may be slightly different.

Even when we try, in a world known for communication and information, we can still completely miss the mark. On the other hand, there are dimensions of communication that make up for our inability to be accurate. The greatest help we have is love. Scripture teaches that we are to speak the truth in love. When we communicate in love, even when there is miscommunication, love fills in some of the cracks and crevices and overcomes some of the burdens and breaks.

Think about the difference love makes in the most rudi-

mentary case. A mom or dad, or a grandparent, can come up to a little child and gently tickle him and in a pleasant, but gruff voice, say, "I'm gonna get you!" The little child will squirm, giggle, smile, and get excited.

The same, identical expression can be said by a stranger and fear will grip the child's heart to the point where you can see it reflected in his face. Love makes a difference!

I remember, many years ago, a church that ran its pastor off — voted him out, sent him away. Some time later they called a new pastor and after a few months someone asked a member of that church, "Why did ya'll run off that other preacher? The pastor you have now preaches just as hard and straight as the other one did. I don't see that there is any difference between the two of them!" The member responded, "Oh, there is a lot of difference!" "Well, what is the difference?" the person asked. The member of the church said, "Well, let me explain it this way. That first pastor used to preach and tell us we were going to hell and the pastor we have now preaches and tells us we are going to hell — but the first pastor seemed to be happy about it!"

When you don't understand everything you hear or see, and when you can't comprehend all the swirling winds around your life, just remember this: "God loves you! Unconditionally, he loves you! Unrelentingly, he loves you!"

Often, for many of us who have experienced his love, unexpectedly, he loves us. Don't you ever forget it!

## Web site using bogus Baptist Press tag

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) — A so-called religious website has been electronically distributing altered Baptist Press news stories to individuals and news agencies across the country, according to Will Hall, the Southern Baptist Convention's vice president for convention news.

Hall said the phony Baptist Press stories have been emailed under the names "newsforuse" and "thebaptistpress." Baptist Press stories received from those email addresses are not authentic, he warned. One national newspaper nearly ran a phony Baptist Press story that included a berating of evangelist Billy Graham. However, a religion editor familiar with Baptist Press copy became suspicious and pulled the story. The altered Baptist Press copy originated from a website run by an organization identified as Christian News Today.

Hall said measures are being taken to stop the "electronic sabotage" of Baptist Press. "Our attorneys are looking into the matter and we intend on contacting the Internet Service Provider for remedy," Hall said. In the meantime, the veracity of any copy attributed to Baptist Press can be verified at the Baptist Press website, [www.sbc.net](http://www.sbc.net). Subscribers can receive daily releases under the address, [www.sbc.baptistpress.org](http://www.sbc.baptistpress.org).

# Teenagers seek to keep YouthLink promises

RICHMOND, Va. (BP) — To keep a promise to God, 18-year-old Lydia Edrington is going to Africa to work for two weeks with Southern Baptist missionaries in Burkina Faso.

"God has given me a burden for the 1.86 billion people in the world who have never heard the name of Jesus and why he came," said Edrington, of Bradenton, Fla. "I pray God can use me in some small way as he did the little boy with the two fishes and five loaves."

That's just one example of Southern Baptist teens fulfilling the commitments they made six months ago at YouthLink 2000.

More than 46,000 young people gathered for YouthLink 2000 in seven cities across the country Dec. 31 to celebrate the arrival of the year 2000. Students met in arenas and conference centers to worship and to listen to speakers and musical groups emphasizing the need to reach the world with the Gospel. The event was sponsored by LifeWay Christian Resources, the International Mission Board, North American Mission Board, and Woman's Missionary Union.

As they welcomed the new millennium, thousands of students publicly told God they were available for future career missionary service.

In addition, more than 4,000 promised they would spend a summer, semester, or year doing God's work full time before they graduate from college. Now it's time to start fulfilling those promises, and many students are keeping their word.

"We've had an increase of over 5,000 participants in World Changers [youth mission program] compared to last year," said Lynn Taylor, director of student evangelism at the North American Mission Board. "Part of the credit may go to the exposure students and youth ministers had to the mission opportunities presented at YouthLink."

International World Changers has seen an increase as well, but more results from YouthLink are expected next summer after churches have had more time to plan international trips.

There's no shortage of mission action this summer.



GLORIFYING GOD -- Over 46,000 youth gathered in Anaheim, Denver, Houston, St. Louis, Atlanta, Philadelphia, and Tampa to celebrate the turning of the millennium Dec. 31. They worshipped, listened to speakers, and enjoyed concerts while realizing the importance of reaching the world with the news of Jesus Christ. (BP photo by Suzanna Saadi)

- Will Aleshire, minister of music and youth at First Church, Hinesville, Ga., is leading a group of high school students as they minister July 15-22 to the people of Culiacan, Mexico, through International World Changers.

- Matt Mantooth, 17, of Greenville, S.C., joined International World Changers in Australia to help build facilities for Southern Baptists to use as they minister during the 2000 Summer Olympics in Sydney. He also led sports camps and gave his testimony in Australian schools.

- The youth at Padre Island Church in Corpus Christi, Texas, are leading backyard Bible clubs in low-income housing areas of San Antonio.

"Our youth caught a vision and passion for what God can do through them, and our youth ministry has exploded since YouthLink," said Darren Sutton, minister of youth and discipleship at Padre Island. "Before YouthLink, we averaged eight youth, but now we average 40."

- Youth from Tabernacle Church in New Bern, N.C., are partnering with the inner-city mission in Atlanta they worked with during YouthLink. They are raising funds to provide a new roof for the people with whom they worked, and have named the campaign "Raisin' the Roof."

"YouthLink was the greatest event in our youth's history!" said Sharon Bender, youth worker at Tabernacle.

- The youth group from Second Church in King's Mountain, N.C., is traveling to Cleveland, Ohio, July 21-29 to conduct Vacation Bible School in the inner city and work with a homeless ministry sponsored by a church in the area.

Richard Ross, LifeWay youth ministry consultant and one of the co-chairmen of YouthLink, thinks the conference's impact will be felt for generations to come.

"YouthLink 2000 has made an indelible mark on the Southern Baptist missions enterprise. The students who attended saw a vision for the world they will never forget," Ross said. "The 'rest of the story' will not be told for decades."

To join a discussion about YouthLink's impact or tell how you are following up on a YouthLink commitment, visit <http://www.imb.org/forum>.

## SWBTS prof John Newport suffers stroke

FORT WORTH, Texas (BP) — John P. Newport, distinguished professor of philosophy of religion emeritus at Southwestern Seminary (SWBTS), suffered a stroke June 14 but has been moved from an intensive care unit at Harris Methodist Hospital in Fort Worth to the hospital's continuing care unit. Newport has made improvement since slipping into a coma following a second surgery to stem hemorrhaging in his brain.



### KEEPING THEIR PROMISES

— Responding to the missions challenge, students at YouthLink 2000 in Denver fill out commitment cards which pledge prayer, participation, or support of missions. More than 4,000 students promised God that they would spend a summer, semester, or year doing God's work full time before they graduate from college. This summer, students are fulfilling those commitments by participating in projects such as World Changers and serving as summer missionaries in the U.S. and overseas. (BP photo by Russell Rankin)

## NAMB introduces personal evangelism strategy

ORLANDO, Fla. (BP) — Linda had been to only a few sessions of "The Net" — the North American Mission Board's (NAMB) new strategy for personal evangelism — when a friend called and asked about her newfound Christian faith.

She was nonetheless able to weave her testimony of how Christ had changed her life with the biblical basis for salvation, recounted her pastor, Mike Landry of Sarasota (Fla.) Church. By the end of the call, her friend had prayed to accept Christ.

Landry shared the story during an introductory reception for "The Net" June 13 in conjunction with the Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting in Orlando.

The Sarasota church was one of several churches participating in field tests of the strategy earlier this year.

The first major personal evangelism training tool for churches introduced by the North American Mission Board since its organization in 1997, "The Net" helps individuals merge a gospel presentation with personal testimony, said Ray Jones, manager of NAMB's personal evangelism unit.

"A postmodern culture is very receptive to the idea of story, and so 'The Net' approach is you tell your story," Jones said. "The one thing you can get a hearing on is your personal experience."

"The Net" also helps Christians develop the skills to build relationships with unbelievers — a prerequisite in many cases for winning the opportunity to share one's faith, Jones said.

The program also is designed to be flexible enough to be integrated into existing

church structures, he said. Its eight sessions of training can be customized in formats varying from a single weekend to eight weekly sessions. No certification is required, he added, and the cost — \$59.95 for the basic kit at introduction — is low enough that every church should be able to participate.

"The Net" is designed to be just one of the tools available to churches to equip members to share their faith, Jones said. It grew out of an effort to update the Continuing Witness Training (CWT) resource developed in the late 1970s. The agency soon realized, however, that a completely different approach was needed.

"The Net" was birthed out of a desire to create a tool that could easily be used to reach postmoderns," he said, noting CWT will continue to be avail-

able and supported by the agency through the end of 2001.

John Avant, pastor of New Hope Church in Fayetteville, Ga., said the last thing his church was looking for was "another program," but "The Net" met a need for equipping individuals to share their faith who often are not comfortable with traditional evangelism training programs.

"I have in my church, as you have, an army of people who have a story to tell, and they have relationships with people with whom they can tell that story," Avant said. "I need a way to mobilize those people."

"Many of them think that unless they are evangelism professionals that they can't do it," he added.

For more information on "The Net," visit [www.namb.net/thenet](http://www.namb.net/thenet).

## JUST FOR THE RECORD

**Barnes Crossing Church, Lee Association**, will host a gospel singing on July 30 at 6 p.m. J. D. Johnson is pastor.

**Baptist Memorial Health Care, Memphis, Tenn.**, will host a Congregational Nursing Symposium at the Baptist Minor Medical Center in Olive Branch, from July 26-29. Designed for registered nurses that want to

provide non-invasive care to members of their spiritual community, the class is intended for experienced practitioners wanting to pursue careers in congregational nursing. For more information, call (901) 227-4580.

**Baptist Health Systems' Volunteer Auxiliary Board** has awarded nursing scholarships to two local students, James Polson of Braxton and Jacqueline Stepp of Ridgeland. The Auxiliary Board gives the annual award to one or two nursing students entering their senior year in nursing with a GPA of 2.5 or better from the Mississippi College School of Nursing. Stepp, a member of First Church, Ridgeland, plans to pursue a master's degree in pediatric nursing, newborn nursing, labor and delivery, or midwifery and will be traveling on a medical mission trip to Russia this summer. Polson, who currently serves as worship leader at Restoration Community Church in Richland, plans to work as a family or pediatric nurse practitioner and serve as a medical missionary, possibly in Romania or Northern Africa. He recently returned from a medical mission trip to Chile. Pictured (from left) are Frances Green, Auxiliary Board scholarship chair; Polson; Stepp; and Dot Terry, Auxiliary Board president.



**First Church, Lucedale**, recently held a recognition service for its GAs. Pictured (front row, from left) are Maggie Branson, Natalie Gilmore, Jacqulyn Ladnier, Carrie Dickerson, Brooke Havard; (second row) Toni Kittrell, Brittany Turner, Heather Mardis, Jordan Smith, Rae Ann Jones; (third row) Deanna Turner, Hannah Adkins, Lauren Gardner, Jamie Scott; (fourth row) Caitlyn Hilbun, Brooke Martin, and Whitney Martin. Leaders are Debbie Brannan, Nola Gilmore, Connie Hilbun, and Peggy Curd is director.



**Palestine Church, Raymond**, held a victory service and ground-breaking ceremony on Mother's Day, May 14. The church is rebuilding after a fire destroyed the building on Jan. 17. Building crews from Kolola Springs Church, New Salem Church, and Caledonia Church, Caledonia; Community Church, Columbus; and Alta Woods Church, Jackson; recently joined together to begin framing the building. Churches interested in a mission project for the summer in helping rebuild this historic church, contact Jerry File at (601) 885-2002. Building committee (pictured, from left) are James Moudy; Jerry File, pastor; Lamar Wigley; Rodger Hinton; Bob Chandler; and Lewis Kilgore. Not pictured is Larry Perry.



Ground breaking at Beulah Church, Decatur

**Beulah Church, Decatur**, held ground breaking services on April 16 for a new building which will house a fellowship hall and classrooms. Pictured (from left) are Jimmy Nicholson; Ricky Harrison; Gary Pinson; Byron Howell, pastor; William Huey, and Danny Gressett.



Green, Polson, Stepp, and Terry



### GREAT PASSION PLAY® 2000

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**PART-TIME YOUTH MINISTER NEEDED.** Send resume to: Providence Baptist Church, c/o Dicky Taylor, 301 Fayette Davis Avenue, Cleveland, MS 38732.

**PIANIST NEEDED** at Kreole Avenue Baptist Church, Moss Point. Call 228-475-1306.

**NEW LIFE CHURCH** of Leaf, Mississippi, is taking applications for praise and worship leader. Send resume to Jerry Rawls at HC 2 Box 4005, McLain, MS 39456, phone 601-753-2507.

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**NORRIS BOOKBINDING COMPANY, INC.** Old Bibles rebound. Also church bulletins and hymnals. For more information call 662-453-7424 or fax us at 662-455-6743. Located at 107 North Stone Avenue, Greenwood, MS 38930.

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What I tell you in the darkness, speak in the light; and what you hear whispered in your ear, proclaim upon the

# HOUSE, TOPS.

Matthew 10:27 NAS

July 14, 2000

HouseTops is a Baptist Record supplement produced by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board's Office of Communication.

## Discipleship and Family Ministries Church Leadership Training

Tuesday, August 1  
Main Street Baptist Church  
Hattiesburg, 7 p.m.-9 p.m.

Thursday, August 3  
First Baptist Church  
Newton, 7 p.m.-9 p.m.

**Friday-Saturday, August 4-5**  
Gulfshore North, Growing Churches  
(Sponsored by Lee Association)  
Calvary Baptist Church  
Tupelo, Fri. 7-9 p.m., Sat. 8-11:30 a.m.  
Training for North Mississippi

*Call Calvary Baptist Church for info: (662)566-1700*

*Call the Discipleship and Family Ministries Department  
for more info: 1-800-748-1651 or 601-968-3800 (in Jackson)*

## PLANNING PROCESS for the NEW CHURCH YEAR 2000 - 2001 brochure available

- The Pastor as Leader
- The Church Leadership Team (Church Council)
- Gather Resources to Aid in Planning
- Write or Review Church Mission Statement
- Study the Church and Community Needs
- Select a Few Priorities
- Set Challenging Goals
- Develop Action Plans to Accomplish Your Priorities
- Develop a Correlated Church Calendar
- Build Your Church Budget
- Present Plans, Calendar, and Budget to Church for Adoption
- Meet Regularly to Review
- Celebrate the Victories



Contact the Church Administration - Pastoral Ministries Department  
for copies at 1-800-748-1651 or in Jackson 968-3800

## 2000 Growing Churches Conference Gulfshore Baptist Assembly

July 27-29

*featuring*

## P.I.E. *Paid In Full*

For reservation information, contact Frank Simmons, manager  
Gulfshore Baptist Assembly, 100 First Street

Pass Christian, MS 39571-3299

Telephone: (228) 452-7261 Fax: (228) 452-7263

MasterCard and Visa can be used for reservations and payment of bill.

Please call the Discipleship and Family Ministry Department for more info:  
(601) 968-3800 or 1-800-748-1651.

## 2000 WMU TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

### CHURCH LEADERSHIP TRAINING

#### **ONLY on Monday, July 31**

Camp Garaywa, Clinton

2:00 p.m.-4:30 p.m. OR 6:00 p.m.-8:30 p.m.

#### **FEATURING**

- Planning for an incredible WMU Church Year  
*Kay Cassibry*
- Women Reaching Women  
*Page Hughes*
- Woman to Woman: Preparing Yourself to Mentor  
*Liz McGraw*
- The Missions Mosaic Menu  
*Kathy Burns*

## CHRISTIAN WOMEN'S JOB CORPS

*Site Coordinator Training, July 20-22, Camp Garaywa, Clinton*

For registration information, contact Tammy Anderson  
WMU Department, MBCB  
at 1-800-748-1651 or in Jackson at 292-3323.

# September Sunday School Training

The Power to Change • The Power of Spiritual Transformation

**September 8 and 9**

**First Baptist Church, Batesville**  
Guest Speaker: Chuck Pourciau  
Pastor, Broadmoor Baptist Church  
Shreveport, La.

No pre-registration, no cost, no childcare provided.  
Registration begins at 5:30 p.m.

Conferences begin at 6:30 on Friday night and conclude by noon on Saturday at all three locations.

Conferences offered at all three locations on:

- Preschool, children, youth and adult curriculum and ministry update.
- Curriculum updates and conferences for pastors, Sunday School directors and other general officers.
- Electives for all age groups, including teaching and ministry ideas for small churches.

Additional conferences for smaller churches offered at Batesville and Gulfshore locations.

**September 15 and 16**

**First Baptist Church, Madison**  
Guest Speaker: Lawrence Phipps  
Pastor, Vaughn Forest Baptist Church  
Montgomery, Ala.

No pre-registration, no cost, no childcare provided.  
Registration begins at 5:30 p.m.

A detailed listing of faculty and conferences may be found at our web site: [www.mbc.org/ss](http://www.mbc.org/ss).

## Professional Certification for Ministry Assistants and Ministry Office Skillshops

August 15-17, 2000  
Camp Garaywa, Clinton



**Professional Certification**  
Dianne Cockrell, certified church secretary instructor for LifeWay Christian Resources, and Church Development Team, South Carolina Baptist Convention, where one of her primary responsibilities is working with ministry assistants across South Carolina.



**Ministry Office Skillshops**  
Jane Barrett, certified church secretary instructor for LifeWay Christian Resources, and Church Administrator at Mt. Hebron Baptist Church in Elmore, Alabama, where she has been on staff for 18 years.



For more information, contact:

Kay McDonnell

Church Administration-Pastoral Ministries Department, MBCB  
1-800-748-1651 or 292-3305 or e-mail: [kmcdonnell@mbcb.org](mailto:kmcdonnell@mbcb.org).



## MEN'S MINISTRY STATE LEADERSHIP TRAINING

August 11-12, 2000  
Central Hills Baptist Retreat,  
Kosciusko



**Friday's Featured Speaker**  
Jim Futral  
Executive Director-Treasurer,  
MBCB



**Saturday's Featured Speaker**  
Harold Watson  
Retired Missionary, Philippines

### AREAS of TRAINING

All sessions are designed to equip church leadership to have a more effective program.

- Developing a Life-Changing Men's Ministry in the Church
- New Royal Ambassadors Leaders Training
- Experienced Royal Ambassador Leadership
- Royal Ambassador's Missions and Activities
- Developing Small Groups That Work
- How to Develop Mission Projects
- Camp Craft Training for Leaders
- Baptist Men On Mission
- Reaching Men Outside the Church
- Lay Renewal
- Disaster Relief
- World Changers/Challengers

**FRIDAY**  
6:00 pm Registration  
6:30 Supper  
7:30 Opening Session

**SATURDAY**  
7:00 am Breakfast  
8:00 Sessions Begin

**DEADLINE TO REGISTER**

July 28, 2000

Contact the Men's Ministry Department for more information  
1-800-748-1651 or in Jackson 968-3800



**August 14**  
**First Baptist Church, Greenville**

**August 17**  
**First Baptist Church, Brookhaven**

**7-9 p.m.**  
**Pre-registration by August 9**  
**featuring**

**Larry Garner, author of  
 "Five Handles for Getting a Grip on  
 Your Sunday School."**

**Larry is director of church services for the Metro  
 Baptist Association. He has written curriculum mate-  
 rials and articles appearing in numerous magazines.**

## "It works better when you have a handle!"

In this highly interactive session, Larry Garner will help you, the Sunday School director, "get a grip" on your Sunday School. How? It always works better with a handle! The Five Handles are five primary actions that must be in place if you are to have an effective Sunday School. Together these handles make up essential tools for building the Kingdom.

### Pre-Registration Form Sunday School Director's Seminar

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Day Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

I serve as Sunday School Director for \_\_\_\_\_ Baptist Church,  
 in \_\_\_\_\_ Miss.

I will attend the seminar at:

- FBC, Greenville  
 FBC, Brookhaven

Pre-register by Wednesday, August 9, and you will receive, at no charge, a copy of "Five Handles for Getting a Grip on Your Sunday School" at the conference.

Complete and return to: Sunday School Department, PO Box 530, Jackson MS 39205  
 You may also register online at [www.mbc.org/ss](http://www.mbc.org/ss)

For more information contact: David Wills, Sunday School Director, [dwills@mbcb.org](mailto:dwills@mbcb.org)  
 John Clendinning, General Growth Consultant, [jclendinning@mbcb.org](mailto:jclendinning@mbcb.org)  
 Sunday School Department, 1-800-748-1651, or 968-3800 locally

# CML

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 Growing Churches Through Discipleship**  
**July 27-29, 2000 Gulfshore Baptist Assembly**

#### CONFERENCE LEADERS



**Rita Kirkland**

Rita is the Media Library director at First Baptist Church, Euless, Texas, and a national specialist for Church Media Program, LifeWay Christian Resources, Nashville, Tennessee.

**Hope Winter Ferguson**

Hope is former Media Library director at Temple Baptist Church, Ruston, Louisiana. She is also an approved worker for Church Media Program, LifeWay Christian Resources, Nashville, Tennessee.



#### SESSION DESCRIPTIONS

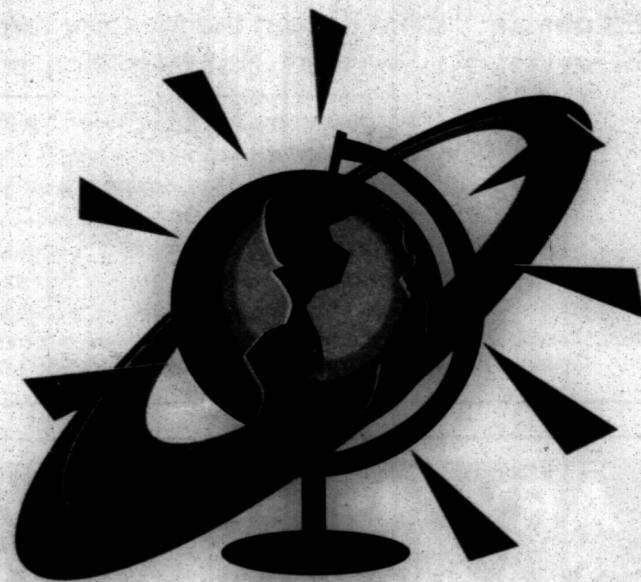
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**Contact the Department of Broadcast  
 Services for more information.  
 1-800-748-1651 or in Jackson 968-3800.**



## Mission Explosion

**August 25-26  
 Camp Garaywa**

Contact Tammy Anderson, WMU  
 1-800-748-1651 or 1-601-292-3323

## Pray this day for...

July 14 - 27, 2000

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### PRAYER IS THE BEGINNING POINT OF FORGIVENESS -

When we pray for someone who has hurt us, we allow God to enter the healing process. Someone once said, "There is nothing that makes us love a person so much as praying for him."

Women's Recognition Sunday (Christian Action Commission Emphasis). Express appreciation for what they do in your church and have a special prayer for them.

16

Gloria Copeland of Columbus, Ohio, works as women's resource group leader of the State Convention of Baptists in Ohio, working with missions/ministries. Pray for the crusades in Ohio this summer, and for the summer camp activities.

For (1) GA/Akteens Summer Camp; Camp Garaywa (WMU), (2) Royal Ambassador/Challenger Camp; Central Hills Retreat, (Men's Ministry)

17

For (1) GA Camp; Camp Garaywa (WMU), (2) Royal Ambassador/Challenger Camp; Central Hills Retreat (Men's Ministry) (3) Super Summer; Mississippi College (Discipleship & Family Ministry), (4) Blue Mountain Young Musicians' Camp; Blue Mountain College.

Malays of Malaysia have at least a cognitive understanding of the power and sovereignty of God but know little of His loving desire to relate to us in a personal way. Pray that Malays will come to understand more of our Father's love through believers they meet.

New Missionaries Clyde and Dinah Fowler, Wes and Paula Rankin and Ed and Deborah Royals recently arrived in Brazil with their children. They will have a year of Portuguese language study before moving to their field of service. Pray for their adjustment.

Pray that Mossi Baptists will maintain their biblical witness in Burkina Faso in the face of traditional funeral practices involving prayers for the dead and prayers to the ancestral spirits. There are many of these celebrations at this time with much drunkenness.

Frank Moreno is in Jacksonville, Fla., leading an aggressive church-planting program. They would like to start 70 new language congregations by October 1. They have started 37. Pray for the Hispanic population in Florida, of which 95 percent is unchurched.

For (1) Older Children's Conference; Gulfshore (Equipping Team), (2) Christian Women's Job Corp Training; Patterson Place, Garaywa; (WMU)

20

For (1) Growing Churches; Gulfshore Assembly (MBCB) (2) Church Media Library Week; Gulfshore Assembly (DBS) (3) Pray that parents will help their children choose shows, videos and video games that are appropriate to their ages and interest.

For (1) Baptist Youth Night; Mississippi Coliseum, Jackson; (MBCB) (2) Lloyd Gibbs is a church planter intern working with the Living Hope Baptist Church in Elm Springs, Ark. Pray also for the need of a music minister and a youth minister.

14

For (1) Baptist Youth Program, (MBCB) (2) "Operation Starting Line," a five year prison evangelism and discipleship program designed to reach every prisoner in the United States. Pray for all the groups who are sponsoring this.

15

For (1) III Centrifuge; (Life Way), (2) Pray for persecuted Christians. This plague affects over 200 million people, with an additional 400 million suffering from discrimination and legal impediments.

22

### Women Reaching Women Retreat

#### Central Hills Baptist Church October 20-21

Registration brochures will be mailed in August! Also, look for the registration form in the *Baptist Record*.

**Emphasis: "Make Known the Mystery throughout Mississippi"**  
Praise/Worship, Seminars, Sisters sharing, praising and praying, etc.

##### Some break out sessions will be:

**Titus 2 Woman** - statewide Mentoring Matchup

**HeartCall** - women sharing God's heart (Bring a woman with you who needs Jesus and/or bring one whom you led to Jesus.)

**Virtuous Reality** - targeting collegiate Women

**Friendship Evangelism** - target campus Women on Mission to reach the Internationals on campus.

Contact the WMU for more info: 1-800-748-1651 or in Jackson 968-3800

### ARW Literacy Workshop Adult Reading and Writing NAMB Certification

September 14-16

**Place:** Pearl River Baptist Association Camp (601)798-2372

**Cost:** \$45 includes meals and registration fee.

**Registration deadline:** September 7

You must complete all class times to receive ARW certification from NAMB.

Contact the WMU for more info: 1-800-748-1651 or in Jackson 968-3800

### Women's Prayer Celebration Retreat "Beyond Belief"

*Speaker: Chris Adams*

*Musician: Donna Lundell*

*Missionary Emphasis: Paula Smith*

**September 29-30  
Gulfshore Baptist Assembly  
Pass Christian**

### Seminars:

- *Gifts from the Heart* - Debora Watts
- *Transformed Lives: Taking Women's Ministry to the Next Level* - Christ Adams
- *Sisters Who Care* - Debora Joiner
- *Launching Language Ministries* - Paula Smith
- Plus many more led by the Women of the State Visionary Team

*Contact the WMU for more info: 1-800-748-1651  
or in Jackson, 968-3800*

## NAMES IN THE NEWS



**First Church, Waynesboro**, recently recognized Wayne Meeks, minister of music, for twenty years of service. A covered dish luncheon was held in his honor and a love offering was presented to him from the church family. Pictured (from left) are Dejuan Walley, pastor; Doug White, retired pastor; Marsha Meeks; and Wayne Meeks.

**First Church, Durant**, held its GA Recognition Service on May 7. Girls pictured (first row, left) are Meagan Kornop; Chelsie McNeer; Jessica Bell;

### STAFF CHANGES

**First Church, Richton**, has recently called Robert Dally (Buddy) Keyes Jr., as pastor. Keyes received his education at William Carey College and New Orleans Seminary. He previously pastored Indian Springs Church, Laurel.

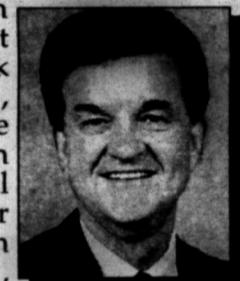


**Longview Church, Starkville**, has called Steve

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Huber of Jackson as pastor effective June 1. Huber received his education at Louisiana State University, New Orleans Seminary, and Southeastern Seminary. He previously served as associate pastor of First Church, Pearl.

**L. H. McCollough** is serving as interim pastor at Rocky Creek Church, Lucedale. He has served in the pastoral ministry for 40 years in Mississippi, Louisiana, and Arkansas. He retired Dec. 31, 1997.



McCollough

**Ebenezer Church, Liberty**, has called Odus Jackson of Gloster as pastor. Jackson

**North Greenwood Church, Greenwood**, held "Bob Day" June 11 in celebration of Bob Hatzfeld's 20th anniversary. After serving as minister of music at North Greenwood Church for 13 years, Hatzfeld became associate pastor in 1993. A reception was held, as well as a testimonial evening worship hour. Gifts included a trip any-

where in the world for him and his wife Frankie, as well as a monetary bonus. Hatzfeld previously served 22 years in churches in Arkansas.



Hatzfeld



GAs of First Church Durant

returns to his first pastorate after 41 years. He retired from the active pastorate in July of 1998 after almost 12 years at Leesburg Church, Rankin County.

**First Church, Shannon**, has called Bryan Horner as minister of music and youth effective May 28. Horner previously served at Bissell Church, Tupelo.

**Mantee Church, Webster Association**, has called Mark Jones as pastor, effective June 5. Jones, a native of Clinton, received his education at Mississippi College and Southwestern Seminary.



Jones

**Lebanon Church, Benton-Tippah Association**, licensed Onnie Ralph and Terry Ray Vuncannon to the ministry on May 28. Pictured (from left) are Ralph; Steven Essary, pastor; and Vuncannon.



Ralph, Essary, and Vuncannon

2000 Annual Conference  
Shocco Springs,  
Alabama  
September 14-15,  
2000

**Wonderful to experience!  
Great to remember!**

This five-day meeting is for retired pastors, church staff, denominational workers and spouses. To make your reservations, call Shocco Springs Conference Center at 1-800-280-1105.



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## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Unsigned letters will not be printed. No multi-copy or form letters will be used.

Each correspondent must include an address and telephone number for verification. In special instances, name may be withheld at writer's request and editor's discretion.

Please include the name of cooperating Mississippi Baptist church where correspondent is a member. (Mississippi Baptists' letters will receive priority when space is limited.)

Letters must be limited to 250 words. All correspondence is subject to editing.

Correspondents should refrain from personal attacks. The opinions expressed in letters to the editor do not necessarily reflect the views of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.

No more than one letter from any individual will be printed during a three-month period.

When in the judgement of the editor a given issue has received sufficient attention, correspondence dealing with it will no longer be published and a notice will be printed to that effect.

### SUPPORTS BF&M

#### Editor:

Much opinion has appeared on the pages of this publication of late concerning the recently revised and adopted Baptist Faith and Message (BF&M) and the committee formed to recommend it. Most, if not all, has been negative. I write in support of the committee and, as best as my limited capacity will allow me to infer, the revised BF&M, including the passage limiting the position of pastor to men.

I believe the members of the committee — men and women — sought God's leadership and sagacity in revising the entire BF&M, not just the men as pastor issue, and refused to acquiesce to the whims of a lost world in order to be politically correct. Christians are to affect the world, not the opposite.

Certainly women can contribute to fulfilling the Great Commission, but the qualifications for bishop and deacon explicitly stated in 1 Tim. 3 are dictated by God, not man. There is no position for compromise.

Christians are called to be the salt of the earth, to attempt to change it to the favor of Christianity. Too many letters in this publication of late indicate a reversal of roles and a desire for God's church to abandon Scripture and become as the world. This I would expect to find in a secular publication, but in The Baptist Record?

Mike Lee  
Philadelphia

### HURRAY FOR SBC

#### Editor:

It pains me to see so many of the writers of letters to the editor to be so ignorant of the Scriptures — and some are pastors. It's a shame that anyone would cry out against the action taken at the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) concerning women not being pastors. It's hard for me to believe that anyone calling himself a Christian (would) turn against those clear teachings.

Now, if some professors at some seminaries have to resign over this, let it be. If some radical feminist types feel they must leave our churches due to this holy action, so be it. If some of you can't understand things clearly taught in the Bible and this makes you sad, mad, and feeling near helpless, then I'm sorry for you. God doesn't need anybody to tell him that his doctrines don't fit the "times" and morals of a particular society.

Furthermore, it's a sad day when we have so many church leaders and laymen who put their own feelings and wants over God's Word. It's a sad day when people want to do their own thing and then get mad when they don't get their way.

I say, "Hooray for the SBC!" Way to go, men and women who courageously took a stand in Orlando! Your broth-

ers and sisters in the Lord appreciate you. We salute you for taking this stand that gave heartburn to the liberal theologians and made the heathens' teeth clench, especially in the news media.

David Worley, pastor  
Evansville Church  
Coldwater

### STAND FIRMLY

#### Editor:

I knew we would hear from the liberals. We always do. Those people who are upset over the action taken at the Southern Baptist Convention regarding prohibiting women from serving as pastors shouldn't vent their anger at Adrian Rogers and his colleagues. They should take their case to the Apostle Paul, and ultimately to God himself. In 1 Tim. 3:1-7, Paul was indis-

putably listing the qualifications of a bishop. In the New Testament, the words bishop, elder, overseer, and pastor are used interchangeably to describe the same men.

Woman have their God-given roles in the church, and so do men. Taking Scripture at its word (and taking God at his Word) leave no room for argument. Only men are to serve as pastors.

It's sad enough that the teachings of Sigmund Freud, Charles Darwin, John Dewey, and Gloria Steinam have pre-eminence in our schools. For the sake of the Gospel, we Christians need to do our part to thwart the influx of these satanic, humanist ideologies which are subtly making their way into the church. We must stand firmly on the infallible, inerrant Holy Word of God!

Anthony Powell  
Waynesboro

## REVIVAL DATES

**Shiloh Church, Big Creek:** youth revival; July 17-21; 6:30-9 p.m.; bus available for pick up.

**First Church, Satartia:** July 17-19; 7:30 p.m.; Andy May, Holly Bluff, evangelist; Glenn Warrington, pastor.

**Hurley, Hurley:** July 30-Aug. 2; Sunday, 7 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 10 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Vance Pittman, evangelist; Johnny Coggins Jr., music; Breaux Tagueant, pastor.

**Second Church, Kosciusko:** July 16-20; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon.-Thurs. 7 p.m.; Sunday, Malcolm Byrd; Mon., Gary Jackson; Tues., Chester Carlisle; Wed., Bobby Waggoner; Thurs., Bobby Denton McKay; Rickey McKay, pastor.

**Lakeshore, Jackson:** July 16-19; Sunday, 6 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Dwight Smith, evangelist; Charles Bingham, music; Joe Crout, pastor.

**Singleton, Louisville:** July 16-21; Sunday, 6:30 p.m.; Mon.-Fri., 7:30 p.m.; Doug Warren, Vaiden, evangelist; Patsy Moore, music; Charles Rook, pastor.

**Pinola (Simpson):** July 16-19; homecoming, Sunday, 11 a.m. followed by lunch; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Ken Harrison, evangelist; Gary Grayson, music; Martha Bush, pianist; Tim Jordon, pastor.

**Branch, Morton:** July 16-19; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 1:30 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7:30 p.m.; Chuck Herring, Richland, evangelist; Norman Huggins, Branch Church, music; Michael Giles, pastor.

**Bethel, Columbus:** July 23-26; Sunday, 6 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; David Green, Greenville, Tenn., evangelist; Archie Chesser, music; Walter Butler, pastor.



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## SERVE EVERY DAY

Editor:

I would like to say that God made man and put him over woman. People don't have to be a pastor or teacher in the church to serve the Lord. There is more work to be done outside the church building. You can't serve the Lord one day a week; it is every day, working with the hungry and the sick and all kinds of needs.

It's sad to know how everything has gotten so messed up. One day Christ is going to judge the world and condemn all sin and the sinners. We try so hard to justify what we do but one day it will all be over for us — heaven or hell. Sorry, there are no in betweens.

I think we should obey the Lord instead of men. I don't see how women could get things in a bigger mess. We have more churches, more Bibles, and more so-called Christians, and look at the U.S. today.

In the Old Testament, God called for all to come out from the sins of the world. Today, Jesus Christ is calling us to turn away from a sin-filled lifestyle. I am a believer in Jesus Christ.

Charles D. Martin  
Batesville

## NOT BY COMPROMISE

Editor:

Congratulations to those of you who stood up and were counted in Orlando recently. Thanks for your faithfulness to the Lord Jesus, the one and only Head of the church. You

affirmed his Word and the biblical principles for pastors; the purity of his church; and Christian principles and the relationship between husband and wife. Thank you.

Our world stands in desperate need of men and women who will take their stand for moral and spiritual right in this age of do as you please — "and everyone did that which was right in their own eyes and went and served Baal." In the early 1960's I was shocked when leading Baptists in my area then promoted situational ethics — the idea that nothing is sacred, nothing is absolutely right or wrong, and only that which is relevant counts.

(Memphis television station) WREG-TV's editor on June 15 castigated the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) for your decision on pastors and trumpeted that the SBC is completely out of step (and should) renounce your decision and follow modern philosophical leads.

Beloved friends, do not hear him. Praise God you voted as you did. Our world will not be won by compromise but with sturdy faithfulness to our leader, Jesus the Christ. Now let us join with Joshua: "As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord."

Charley L. Sandifer  
Water Valley

## BAPTIST COLLEGE NEWS

**William Carey College** (WCC) has announced a 25% increase in enrollment for the 2000 summer session. With an expansion of 334 students compared to the 1999 summer session, Carey attributes the growth to a new graduate psychology

program, an established master of business administration (MBA) program, and current student public relations. The total enrollment figures include statistics from all three WCC campuses (Hattiesburg, Gulfport, New Orleans, La.). For information

about William Carey College call the admissions office on the Hattiesburg campus at (601) 582-6103. For information about William Carey College, Gulf Coast campus, call (228) 897-7100.

## HOECOMINGS

**Evergreen, Shubuta:** Centennial celebration; July 23; opening ceremony, 9:45 a.m.; lunch at noon; afternoon ceremony, 1:15 p.m.

**Hurley, Hurley:** July 30; Sunday School high attendance day, 9:45 a.m.; worship, 11 a.m.; dinner in the fellowship hall at noon; Breaux Tageant, pastor.

**Sarepta, Meadville:** July 23; worship, 11 a.m.; covered dish lunch in fellowship hall at noon; afternoon singing; Matt Buckles, director, Church Administration/Pastoral Ministries Department, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, guest speaker; Webb Armstrong, pastor.

**Mount Vernon, Liberty:** July 16; worship, 10:30 a.m.;

dinner on the grounds at noon; Scott Cappleman, former pastor, guest speaker; Shean Smith, pastor.

**Singleton Church, Louisville:** July 16; services at 11 a.m. followed by lunch; Hugh Martin former pastor, speaker; Charles Rook, pastor.

**First Church, Satartia:** July 16; 11 a.m.; James Whittington, Raymond, guest speaker; Glenn Warrington, pastor.

**Carey Dinner Theatre** will present its second production of its 26th season July 11 through 22 with the show "Beehive, The Musical." It is a tribute to the girl groups and solo singers of the 1960's. "Beehive" is being presented nightly except Sunday and Monday. Dinner is served at 7 p.m. in the O. L. Quave Theatre on the Hattiesburg campus of William Carey College, and the performance follows. The admission price of \$17.50 includes dinner and the show. The box office is open daily from 10 a.m. until 7 p.m. (except Sunday), and seats may be reserved by calling (601) 582-6221.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## Offering goals exceeded

**First Church, Terry,** exceeded its goal of \$5,000 for the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering by giving a final total of \$5,063.75. John H. Pace Jr. is pastor.

**Wayside Church, Vicksburg,** exceeded its Annie Armstrong goal by \$122. Larry Haggard is pastor.

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## FAMILY BIBLE SERIES

### Provisions for believers: Ministry Ephesians 4:1-16

By Juanita West

In his witness to the Gentile Christians, Paul challenged them to study their behavior, which should be in response to the Lord Jesus Christ.

**Gentle approach (vv. 1-6).** Paul compared the Christian life to the daily activity of walking. In order for the believer to have the "worthy walk," Paul listed six characteristics, which should permeate the Christian's life.

Lowliness, also translated humility, means putting Christ and others before self. Gentleness, often called meekness, results from one's ability to control self.

Longsuffering is endurance and cannot be separated from forbearing one another in love (v. 2).

We are quick to ask God to have patience with us, but we often fail to extend that same consideration to fellow believers.

Paul reminded the Ephesian followers that it is a constant endeavor to "walk worthy" and "to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace" (v. 3, NKJ). He reminded them and us that there is "one body, one Spirit, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, and one God and Father of all" (vv. 4-6, NKJ).

**Gracious gifts (vv. 7-11).** After emphasizing unity



among the believers, Paul focused on the grace gifts. These spiritual gifts are given by God to promote the unity and the function of the church.

Wiersbe explains that "a spiritual gift is a God-given ability to serve God and other Christians in such a way that Christ is glorified and believers edified" (Be Rich, p. 100).

Paul's list in v. 11 seems to group the gifts into specific functions associated with the church. The apostles and prophets were foundational functions of the Christian church.

The apostles were "the original witnesses of Christ's life, death, and resurrection. Their function was to give a true presentation of the gospel and to launch the missionary movement" (Layman's Bible Book Commentary, vol. 21, pp. 119-120).

The prophets "delivered

direct revelations from God before the New Testament was written" (v. 11, Notes, NKJ). Therefore, the apostles and the prophets did not exist after the first generation of believers.

Evangelists are primarily engaged in spreading the Gospel in the same manner as the early missionary movement. Pastors and teachers, joined as one in this listing, provide the shepherding and instructing of the fellowship.

**Growing believers (vv. 12-16).** The functions of the grace gifts are to be used "for the equipping of the saints for the work of the ministry" (v. 12, NKJ).

All Christians are to be supplied and adorned with the opportunities for the spiritual growth necessary for carrying out the service of the church. The entire ministry is done "for the edifying of the body of Christ" (v. 12, NKJ). This simply means that the saints consistently work to build up the church.

In his study on Ephesians,

Wiersbe states, "the members of the church grow by feeding on the Word and ministering to each other" (Be Rich, p. 103).

The gifted members are to work until all members of the church display "unity of faith, knowledge of the Son of God, and Christlikeness (v. 13, NKJ).

Paul asserted that this growth in Christian maturity will keep believers from being swayed by the false doctrines and temptations of unsound innovative principles.

Instead of being like children who are sometimes easily swayed, the followers of Christ should mature in him and grow together in completing the whole body for Christ. "Every part does its share and causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love" (v. 16).

"Let us join our hands that the world will know; We are one in the bond of love."

West is a member of Calvary Church, Newton.

## LIFE AND WORK

### God is in control

Gen. 1:16-18; 8:22; Ps. 33:10-11; Jer. 33:25-26;  
John 5:17; Rom. 8:28; Rom. 13:1-5

By Matt Loving

"A Christian prisoner in Cuba was asked to sign a statement containing charges against fellow Christians that would lead to their arrest. He said, 'The chain keeps me from signing this.'

The communist officer protested, 'but you are not in chains!' 'I am,' said the Christian. 'I am bound by the chain of witnesses who throughout the centuries gave their lives for Jesus Christ. I am a link in this chain. I will not break it' (Jesus Freaks, p. 49).

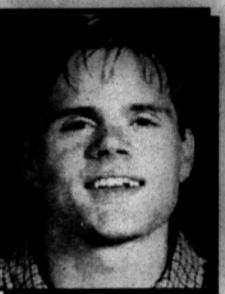
How does someone begin to have such confidence in God in his life? Ultimately, having this

kind of faith comes from the power of God working in our hearts and lives remembering that it is God who is the author and perfecter of our trust in him.

We must also turn to Scripture as our guide to the nature of the Lord knowing that all Scripture is God-breathed. In Scripture we can find four basic truths that will enable believers to rest easy in knowing that God is in control.

**God has a purpose (Ps. 33:10-11).** The Lord overrules and overrides all human plans. His own purposes are everlasting for all people and all times.

Les Hughes has written that "It means, that no matter how



Loving

evil or powerful people are, human beings cannot usurp the authority of God and prohibit his ultimate will from being done... Jesus knew nothing or no one could harm him without the Father's permission... the real measure of faith is not whether we believe when God gets us out of the fire.

Genuine faith is being in the fire and believing just the same" (The Sound Of God's Applause, pp. 175, 177-178).

**God has established the natural order (Gen. 1:16-18; 8:22; Jer. 33:25-26).** The Lord promised Noah that day and night, as well as the seasons, would consistently continue as long as he allows earth to exist.

Also, the Lord revealed through Jeremiah upon the Davidic covenant that people can look to nature's fixed order as evidence of God's preservation of all that was created.

All throughout Scripture it is

revealed not only that God has established natural order but that it can serve as a constant source of stability for people in their daily lives.

**God has provided social order (Rom. 13:1-5).** In this passage Paul gave the exhortation to obey all governmental and societal authorities because God is ultimately in control of what happens no matter the apparent persons or source.

The order is for the purpose of establishing righteousness and punishing evil. The point here relates to God's sovereignty even in the social sphere.

In Matt. 22:21, Jesus profoundly, yet simply, explained that we are to give to the authorities whatever is theirs and to God what is his — our lives because we bear his image.

**God is at work in his world (John 5:17; Rom. 8:28).** Jesus himself declared that God the Father is always working in his world so that we would know.

Paul, in similar fashion,

explained that God is making good things happen for those that love him.

The emphasis of this familiar passage in Romans is not so much that all things by themselves work out for the good of believers. It is rather that in everything God works all things together for believers.

Hannah Whitall Smith once wrote that "a very good illustration of this may be found in the familiar fact of a mother giving medicine to her dearly loved child... No matter how full her closet may be of bottles of medicine, the mother will

not allow one drop to be given to the child unless she believes it will be good for it; but when she does believe it will be good for her darling, the very depth of her love compels her to force it on her child, no matter how bitter may be its taste" (The Christian's Secret Of A Happy Life, pp. 156).

Loving is minister of youth at Oak Hill Church, Poplarville.

## EXPLORE THE BIBLE

### Satan vs. Christ

Revelation 12:1-6, 11; 13:1, 2-3, 8

By Tommy Bufkin

Many people, including some Christians, wear an emblem that symbolizes something that is very unchristian — the Tai Chi symbol. It is a pattern of two teardrop shapes swirled in a circle, one white and one black. They are perfectly balanced and represent a belief in Eastern mysticism that good and evil are opposing and equal forces. This is not what is learned from the Bible.

The Bible presents God as supreme. No power can rival him. This was demonstrated in Christ's death on the cross and his resurrection. Satan will be ultimately cast down by a victorious Christ.

**Satan defeated (12:1-6, 11).** John sees a marvelous woman in heaven. This woman has been variously identified as Mary, the Christian church, Israel, an idealized Israel, or the people of God.

The use of the word "sign" seems to suggest a symbolic interpretation. The best explanation is that she represents the people of God. The Messiah came from the community of faith and the present church is the object of attack.

The woman is described with great splendor. She is clothed in light as contrasted with the darkness that opposes her.

The pains of birth may point



Bufkin

to the struggle of the people of God against the forces of the world. The Messiah is born then out of that struggle.

It is clear that the dragon is a manifestation of Satan. He is red because he is a murderer and destroyer. Seven heads with seven crowns indicate his power and authority on earth. The horn was a symbol for power so ten horns demonstrate complete power. This power is demonstrated as the tail of the dragon cast down a third of the stars in heaven. There have been attempts to identify the seven heads and ten horns of the dragon with figures in history, but this connection is unclear.

The dragon's main concern is to destroy the Messiah at birth. This is a vivid portrayal of Satan's opposition to man and God's redemptive efforts.

The incarnation was a defeat

for Satan. He could not prevent it. Nor could he keep the Messiah from completing his mission of grace. After his work, the Son ascended to heaven. This Child was destined to rule the world with power as depicted by the rod of iron.

**Saints not deceived (13:1b-3, 8).** Though Satan was defeated by the incarnation, death, and resurrection of Christ, he continues his conflict with the people of God.

The great beast has been variously identified as the Roman Empire, the antichrist, Satan, or a general world power opposed to God. He certainly seems to be the embodiment of Satan. The beast has the same number of horns and heads with crowns.

This fantastic beast is a composite creature which seems to draw upon Daniel's vision. He is a terrible antagonist for the people of God. He is given all the power and authority of Satan.

Though powerful, the beast

bears a mark of vulnerability. He has a mortal wound that has healed. The world admires power and ruthlessness. Many will follow the way of the beast and oppose the people of God.

All will worship this beast except for those whose names are in the "book of life." These are the believers — those who have trusted in the Lamb slain for them. "Before the foundation of the world" can be connected with "written" or with "slain."

If the former, it would be an indication that believers were known from the very beginning. If the latter, which is more likely, it would indicate that every believer of every age is known and kept by God.

No matter how one identifies the beast of the sea, believers are saved from his power and deception. Their names are in the book. In Christ, believers can and should resist Satan's attacks.

Bufkin is pastor of Mt. Zion Church, Rankin Association.

# THE VILLAGE VIEW



Ronny E. Robinson, Executive Director

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## Gifts of Honor and Memory

A portion of **The Village View** is allocated each month to a list of Gifts of Honor and Memory. Many groups and individuals elect to pay tribute to others through this sensitive, meaningful, and helpful medium. This feature is hopefully designed to further honor, with taste and respect, those who are and have been special to our special friends.

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**Mr. Sam G. Moore**  
Mrs. Dor Griffin  
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The Baptist Children's Village summer recreation staff is (front row, from left) Bill Sones; Kim Parker, director of activities; (back row, from left) Jeremy Ellis; and Jacob Harris-Coldwater.

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Helen & David Jenkins  
Mr. & Mrs. Garvin Knight  
**Mrs. Bertha Morris**  
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**Mrs. Lizzie B. Moses**  
Phileene & Stuart Allen  
**Mrs. Emma Rene Moss**  
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Concord Baptist Church  
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**Mrs. Ellie Whitehead**  
Sherry & Joe Hawkins  
**Mr. Milton Whiteside**  
Thirteenth Avenue Pharmacy & Staff



Bob Catlett of the India Nunnery campus recently found this little friend during a campus-wide clean up day.

# French law would criminalize ministries

WASHINGTON (BP) — Southern Baptist missionaries and laypersons who share their faith in Jesus could be imprisoned for up to two years under a proposed French law that accuses religious "proselytizers" of "mental manipulation" of the public.

Southern Baptists are just one of 173 religious groups labeled "dangerous sects" by members of France's Socialist party. The proposed bill aims to limit the spread of what French officials have called the mental manipulation of the public by evangelical and other religious groups.

The proposed crime, which critics say could cover many religious, advertising, and interest groups, is to "exercise serious and repeated pressure on a person in order to create or exploit a state of dependence."

The bill would allow the French government to shut down a religious group when two representatives are found guilty of at least one legal infraction.

Currently, the International Mission Board has 40 workers in France and has had an established missionary presence in the country since 1960.

Dwayne Hastings, a spokesman for the Southern Baptist Convention's Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission, said the French proposal is not surprising.

"It isn't surprising given the climate of increased repression and persecution of Christians in many countries around the world," Hastings said. "It would behoove Southern Baptists to be aware of this proposed legislation and make their concerns known to the U.S. State Department."

"It is inappropriate for any government agency or faith community to attempt to intimidate or silence any other entity in the public or private expression of their faith," Hastings noted.

A senior State

Department official told the Washington Times the proposed law raises concerns in Washington.

"In a worst case scenario, it could turn out to be a nasty piece of legislation," the official said.

French Justice Minister Elisabeth Guigou last week called the bill "a significant advance giving a democratic state the legal tool to efficiently fight groups abusing its core values."

N.J. L'Heureux, moderator of the religious liberty panel of the National Council of Churches, testified before the House Committee on International Relations June 14 about the targeting of evangelical and other religious groups.

"Overly aggressive evangelical preaching could be interpreted by some as mental manipulation," said L'Heureux, a Methodist.

Hastings, however, said the Bible commands believers to share their faith. "The Bible is explicit in its command that we should seek to share the Gospel with everyone," he said.

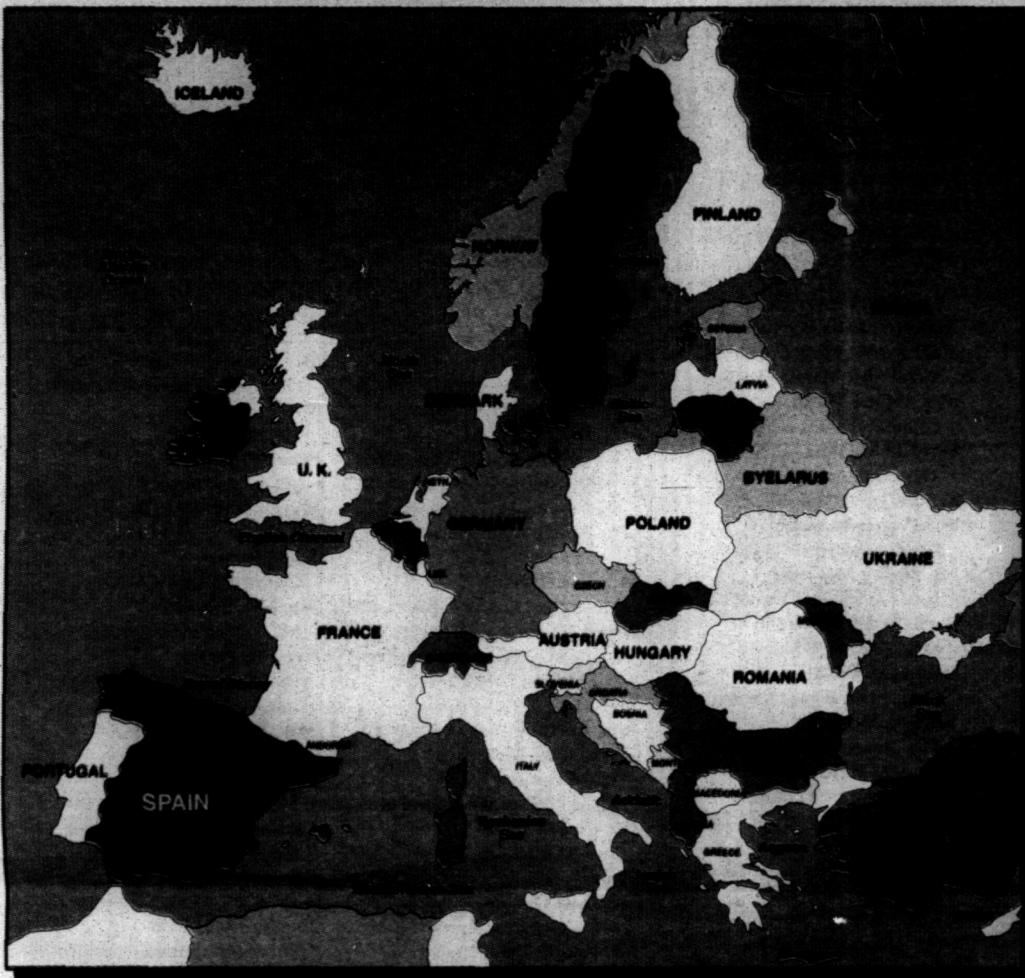
"Evangelism and witnessing are actions generated out of love and concern, not hostility or hatred. It is clearly not an exercise that should be regulated by the state," he said.

Michel Bertrand, president of the Council of Protestant Churches, spoke out against the proposed law. "We will not move forward... by casting suspicion on all forms of religious faith," Bertrand told the Washington Times.

Hastings said the French proposal should be a sign for Americans.

"The mere fact that such a proposal is being seriously considered in France should call us to reflect upon the preciousness of the liberties guaranteed to us under the U.S. Constitution," Hastings said.

"The cost of maintaining these freedoms remains unfailing vigilance to threats at home and overseas."



## Southern Baptists leading Amsterdam conferences

MINNEAPOLIS (BP) — A number of denominational leaders, pastors, and professors from the Southern Baptist Convention will be participating in "Amsterdam 2000," the upcoming, worldwide gathering of evangelists in The Netherlands.

Scheduled for July 29-Aug. 6 at the RAI Centre in Amsterdam, the meeting represents a symbolic passing of the torch from organizer Billy Graham to the thousands who will be attending. This will be the first meeting in Amsterdam since the renowned evangelist led a conference there in 1986.

International Mission Board President Jerry Rankin and North American Mission Board (NAMB) President Bob Reccord are two of nearly a dozen SBC figures presenting 75-minute seminars at the conference. Between 40 and 45 will be presented each day, with the 10 most popular repeated on the final day.

Rankin and Reccord will also be among 300 denominational leaders who will form one of three major task forces at the event. Each task force — the other two concern evangelistic strategy and theology — will issue position papers at the end of the conference.

Bill Conard, program director for the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association (BGEA), has met or corresponded with the two SBC leaders. He credits a letter Rankin sent BGEA 18 months ago, emphasizing church planting as a viable means of evangelism, with helping shape some of the workshops.

"I have very high regard for their involvement and the vast experience that they have through the strength of the Southern Baptist outreach," he said, "both in this country and overseas."

Reccord also put him in touch with David Clark, vice president of NAMB's Broadcast Center in Fort Worth, Texas, to arrange a five-part workshop on creating evangelistic videos.

Conard said the workshop on videos could be one of the most effective ways to reach nations and people groups who to date have only been able to view translated materials. Offering videos in their native tongue can greatly influence viewers, he said.

"We may have a limited window technologically," he said, "but for the next five years this could be one of the most effective ways of getting the

Gospel out in an area where they've had nothing before."

In addition to Clark's, the workshops being led by SBC figures from the United States include:

- Rankin will address effective church-planting methods in "Evangelism and Church Planting." The seminar will look at ways of starting new churches that include new converts.

- "Ways to Stimulate Evangelism in Denominations" will be led by Reccord and John Yarbrough, NAMB's vice president of evangelization. The pair will discuss instilling in a church or group of churches a desire to see the lost come to Christ.

- "Fasting for Spiritual Breakthrough" will be led by Reccord and John Yarbrough, NAMB's vice president of evangelization. The pair will discuss instilling in a church or group of churches a desire to see the lost come to Christ.

- "Helping Build Purpose-Driven Churches" is the topic of Rick Warren's workshop. The senior pastor of Saddleback Valley Community Church in Lake Forest, Calif., his "Purpose Driven Church" has been a best-seller on Christian book lists.

- Contemporary Christian singer and evangelist Al Denson will discuss "Reaching Young People With Music," providing tips on sharing Christ in a meaningful way through music. Denson grew up in Sagemont Church (SBC) in Houston.

### Bibliocipher

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FDILKC, MDNUQA, LM  
NUYJ GQ ELZZLKC,  
AQOYXQ NULF RJT MAYO  
OQ: KQXQANUQZQFF  
KYN OI ELZZ, GJN  
NULKQ, GQ HYKQ.  
ZJVQ NEQKNI-NEY:  
MYANI-NEY

Clue: M = F

Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: Revelation Two: Eleven.